

# WHAT'S *New*



in the Metropolitan Police Department

*A weekly update for residents, visitors, and  
workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, July 7, 2006*

## OFFICIALS TEST EVACUATION PLANS IN OPERATION FAST FORWARD II

For DC's transportation and public safety officials, this year's Fourth of July celebration on the National Mall was an opportunity to test the city's evacuation plans in a somewhat "real-world" environment. The MPDC joined the District Department of Transportation and other public safety and transportation agencies in carrying out Operation Fast Forward II, following the conclusion of Tuesday's fireworks display. The goal of the operation was to see how quickly and smoothly the District could move large numbers of people — pedestrians, motorists and transit riders — out of the downtown area. One element of the plan involved moving pedestrians out of the affected area, before allowing vehicular traffic to pass. In the past, heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic at the same time has caused gridlock and created safety concerns. The plan also involved DDOT adjusting the timing of its traffic signals to provide for longer green lights on roadways leading out of the Mall and downtown. MPDC officers were stationed at various key intersections to monitor and expedite the flow of traffic. DDOT also coordinated with the transportation agencies in Virginia and Maryland to ensure that their traffic plans, including the opening of HOV lanes, complemented the District's efforts. Overall, officials gave the drill high marks: there were no serious incidents or injuries, and traffic flowed out of the Downtown area relatively quickly. Chief Ramsey cautioned, however, that while Operation Fast Forward II was a good exercise, the environment was far different from the type of scenario that a terrorist attack or other, unplanned event may create. The Chief said DC and regional leaders should conduct additional exercises, in less controlled settings. He also said the public needs to be prepared to respond to react calmly and appropriately in emergency situations, listening to and following instructions from emergency personnel.

① For background information on Operation Fast Forward II, go to:  
[http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1252,q,637304,ddotNav\\_GID,1610.asp](http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1252,q,637304,ddotNav_GID,1610.asp)

① DDOT provides a list of evacuation/event routes in DC, along with transportation tips during an emergency, at:  
<http://ddot.dc.gov/ddot/cwp/view,a,1250,q,560885,ddotNav,1323991.asp>

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: AUGUST 1 IS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2006

Crime prevention is a year-round job. But one evening each year, communities across DC and throughout the country come together to recognize and celebrate the police-community partnerships that lead to safer communities. National Night Out, which occurs on the first Tuesday of every year, is the largest nationwide observance of crime prevention. This year's event takes place on Tuesday, August 1. And again this year, DC will be celebrating National Night Out in a big way. From neighborhood cookouts and softball games, to community marches and candlelight vigils, neighborhoods in all seven police districts will be holding NNO events on August 1. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. In DC, National Night Out is an opportunity to recognize the community members and police officers who make "Policing for Prevention" work throughout the year, and to encourage even more residents to get involved in community policing. Nationwide last year, some 9,500 communities from all 50 states, DC, US territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide participated in National Night Out.

① For more information, including a listing of scheduled NNO activities in DC neighborhoods, go to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547053,mpdcNav\\_GID,1541.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547053,mpdcNav_GID,1541.asp)

① Even if you cannot participate in an organized National Night Out event, residents are encouraged to "light up the night" on August 1 by turning on exterior lights and spending some time outdoors.

## CRIME LEVELS INCREASE SLIGHTLY IN JUNE, UP ABOUT 4 PERCENT THROUGH THE FIRST HALF OF 2006

The number of serious crimes reported to the police rose slightly in June, with a drop in property offenses offset by a rise in most categories of violent crime, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. For the month, there were 2,862 serious ("Index") crime reported, compared with 2,835 for the same period last year, an increase of just under 1 percent. The preliminary statistics show that all categories of property crime declined during June, with stolen autos (-9%), thefts (-6%) and burglaries (-5%) all down. There was also one fewer homicide last month than during the same period of 2005. However, other categories of violent crime were up sharply last month. Citywide, robberies rose by 31 percent and assaults with a deadly weapon (ADW) were up 24 percent. MPDC officials have linked recent increases in robberies and weapons offenses to greater juvenile involvement in these crimes. Through the first six months of 2006, serious crime in the District rose by about 3.7 percent when compared with the first half of 2005, according to preliminary statistics. Homicides, ADWs, thefts and arson offenses were all down during the first half of the year; robberies and thefts from vehicles were the crime types showing the largest increases. During the first half of 2006, serious crime was down in four of the seven police districts, was essentially unchanged in one district, and was up in two districts.

## CIVILIAN JOB VACANCIES IN THE MPDC

The MPDC is currently accepting applications for various full- and part-time civilian positions within the agency. The most recently announced vacancies include an Information Technology (Data Management) Specialist in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (DS-2210-14); this position directs data administration for MPDC databases and oversees server administration and database performance tuning, security, maintenance and troubleshooting. A Secretary (Typing - DS-318-07) in the Evidence Control Branch performs a variety of administrative support duties, such as making arrangements for travel and conferences, and preparing correspondence. Also, the Fourth District is looking for a part-time Lead Crossing Guard (DS-085-04), who is responsible for instructing Crossing Guards in specific tasks and job techniques, among other supervisory duties. Other current civilian vacancies include a Capital Project Specialist in Facilities Management (DS-301), who plans and coordinates various renovation, refurbishment and construction projects at MPDC facilities, as well as part-time Crossing Guards (DS-085-2/03) in various police districts. Closing dates, salaries, tours of duty and other elements of the jobs vary. The MPDC employs several hundred civilian members, working in various administrative, technical, operational and management positions.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Suspects Sought in Armed Robberies.** The MPDC is seeking the public's help in identifying four suspects who held up three business establishments in the area of 19th and M Streets, NW, within a short time period on July 3. The MPDC offers rewards of up to \$5,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction in any robbery committed in DC. Details on the latest robberies, including photos of three of the suspects, are at <http://app.mpdcc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=477000>.

**Summer Curfew Reminder.** Young people and their parents are reminded that the "summer curfew" hours in DC — 12:01 to 6 am, seven nights a week — are in effect through August 31. The MPDC is emphasizing curfew enforcement this summer as a way to help combat juvenile crime. Details at <http://app.mpdcc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=463000>.

① Review preliminary crime statistics for each of the seven districts and the city as a whole by going to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543329.asp>

① Many criminal offenses are "crimes of opportunity." Learn how to reduce your chances of becoming a crime victim by visiting:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,542013,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,1,asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,542013,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,1,asp)

① Details on the current vacancies, including the minimum requirements and application procedures, can be found online at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538142.asp>

① The MPDC is always looking for citizen volunteers to join the MPDC's Reserve Corps, which provides qualified civic-minded individuals with the opportunity to assist the MPDC in carrying out its policing responsibilities. Details at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547109.asp>

### DATA BOX

Homicides as of 7/7/06  
◆ 2006: 90  
◆ 2005: 91  
◆ % Change: -1.1%  
◆ Closure Rate: 45.6% (41 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 7/1/06  
◆ Total: 806  
◆ Weapons: 21  
◆ Robbery: 12  
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicles: 17  
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 41  
◆ Narcotics: 146

Juvenile Activity week end. 7/1/06  
◆ Total Arrests: 44  
◆ Robbery: 2  
◆ Weapons: 1  
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 14  
◆ Curfew Violators: 100

Firearm Recoveries as of 7/5/06  
◆ July: 5  
◆ June: 185  
◆ 2006 Total: 1,185

Traffic Fatalities as of 7/7/06  
◆ 2006: 23  
◆ 2005: 22  
◆ % Change: +4.5%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with [Crime-reports.com](http://Crime-reports.com).

**mpdc.dc.gov**